

December 7, 2020 Covid Narrative

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said since last Monday Scituate has seen 26 new Covid cases up from 23 the previous week. Only six of those were at addresses where someone had previously tested positive for the virus. The remaining were at new addresses.

Due to increased testing for the virus, the town's positivity rate actually went down to 2.21 percent from 2.77 percent over the past 14 days. The state positivity rate is at 5.3 percent. Over the next several days, the town could see a Covid bump due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Residents are reminded to follow the state quarantine and testing protocol when they return from out-of-state travel. (visit: mass.gov or see the link at scituatema.gov) That includes those citizens who may go to New Hampshire, Vermont or Maine to ski. They will be subject to the same state quarantine and testing requirements on their return.

With the recent addition of 3.8 inches of rain, measured at the water treatment plant, the town has been upgraded to abnormally dry from moderate drought. The

reservoir is at 69 percent. Usage is at 446,000 gallons per day.

The Maritime project at Cole Parkway has begun in earnest. Fencing is up and the pilings have been unloaded. The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the boating season.

Traffic closures and delays will be very disruptive on Cedar Point when the contractor brings in a large excavator to dig trenches for the main sewer line. That is expected soon. Residents will be notified. At times, Lighthouse Road will be closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said the school department has seen 10 cases of Covid in the district over the past 14 days, for a total of 42 since the start of the school year. He urged families to continue to have serious conversations about mitigation strategies with their children so the school district can avoid going back to fully remote learning.

The Medical Advisory Committee and superintendent will be meeting with the staff at Scituate Public Schools for a question-and-answer forum this week on Covid and

Covid-related issues. There will also be a forum for the wider school community next week.

The cause of recent odor of smoke and subsequent evacuations at Cushing School has been addressed and resolved. Mechanical issues involving short-circuits in two motors and faulty starters in the HVAC system were the reason. Burkhead thanked the fire department for their help.

The school department has received quotes to install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors throughout the Cushing School to ensure safety of school and staff.

Principals and staff will present school improvement plans that align with district goals at next week's school committee meeting.

Next week there will also be more news about the seventh-and-eighth-grade band performance which will take place outside. Stay tuned!